

Environmental Quality – Non-Industrial

SUMMARY PAGE

Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield (FS/HAAF) is well known as the home of the 3rd Infantry Division (ID) and serves as the US Army's premier power projection platform on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States. FS/HAAF is located near the port city of Savannah in Coastal Georgia on over 284,000 acres of residential, garrison, and training/maneuver area. Its mission is to train and rapidly deploy military forces worldwide. With the availability of year-round training support, access to a major port and an airfield makes FS/HAAF a prime east coast training location for the US Army as demonstrated by several 3rd ID and National Guard Brigade training/deployment operations.

FS/HAAF is committed to supporting mission readiness and execution while enabling the well-being of over 50,000 Soldiers, Family Members, and Civilians, improving infrastructure, as well as preserving the environment. FS/HAAF met the requirements of Executive Order (EO) 13148 and conformance with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 in September 2005. This was a huge accomplishment and launched the Installation's efforts to focus on sustainability and improving the environmental conditions at FS/HAAF well into the future.

FS/HAAF is a recognized leader in global citizenship and sustainability values, and is constantly striving to improve environmental quality of the Installation and surrounding areas. The Installation's sustainability efforts were a major contributor to FS/HAAF winning the Army Communities of Excellence Awards for three consecutive years, 2004, 2005, and 2006 and recently for 2009. These honors among many more were bestowed upon the Installation for superb performance using its resources to sustain the mission, increase the productivity of its workforce and enhance the FS/HAAF community quality of life.

Given the scope of our mission, environmental quality management is extremely important to FS/HAAF. The Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division is committed to supporting the Army's mission of enhancing the Installation's power projection platform in support of National security objectives while overseeing all environmental activities for the Installation and providing information and education to Soldiers and Civilians on how their operations affect the environment as a whole. The Division's staff is composed of engineers, environmental protection specialists, biologists, archeologists, historians, foresters and contractors supporting the Installation's mission, quality of life for our Soldiers and their Families, and overall environmental quality.

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Program Management

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The Environmental Division works closely with Command to ensure environmental quality and sustainability are integrated into the Installation's strategic planning process. Specifically, Quality Management Boards (QMBs) have been established embodying the Installation's mission objectives. These QMBs, comprised of a cross-functional interdisciplinary team, meet monthly to establish and review metrics that measure the success of the Installation at meeting the mission objectives, and identifying projects and processes that would help to improve that success. The status of the various QMBs is reviewed quarterly by the Installation Garrison Commander. Projects developed from these QMBs are prioritized for the next stage of review, the Installation Planning Board (IPB). This executive board is chaired by the Installation Commander where the measures are again reviewed, and all the projects are evaluated, and prioritized for execution pending funding. The Environmental Division is involved in each of the five QMB which includes Training Support, Power Projection and Readiness, Well Being, Safety and Security, and Optimizing Resources. The Division has a proven systematic way of tracking and completing environmental clearances for Installation projects within the QMB process that ultimately allows a clear path for projects that become the Garrison's execution work plan when set and approved by Senior Leaders at the annual IPB. Nevertheless, every single project is important to the Environmental Division. In 2005, this office developed an intranet-based

tracking tool for reviewing and providing environmental input. By using this methodology, FS/HAAF's Environmental Division is fully integrated in every aspect of the Installation's decision making process for each proposed action and has efficiently prioritized its workload to support all projects IAW the MCA FYDEP, the IPB, and the various QMB rankings.

The Division is committed to supporting the Army's customers – Units, Soldiers, Family Members, Department of Army Civilians, and Retirees. We do this by actively engaging Installation staff while providing sound stewardship of Installation resources and the environment. Environmental coordination is continuously ongoing with DPW Master Planning Division and the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security's (DPTMS's) Training Division to assist in determining optimal siting alternatives for Garrison and Range Control projects at early proposal stages. During these early planning initiatives, the Environmental Division begins preparing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation to meet internally set suspense dates prior to a proposed action's contract award often times enabling early execution. The office consolidates environmental responses from subject matter experts after their completion of internal project review and coordinates those responses with project proponents and our customers to ensure they are aware of the proposed action's environmental requirements. By proactively commenting on every project, proponents and designers are continuously reminded of the need to protect and sustain our environment and incorporate required local, state, and Federal requirements into design, construction, and implementation of those projects.

This process allows the Environmental Division program managers to better prepare for US Fish and Wildlife Service coordination, account for the submission of Erosion Sedimentation (E&S) and Pollution Control Plans and NPDES permitting, coordinate with the Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Regulatory to successfully complete 404 permitting and associated mitigation, complete cultural resource coordination, explain when wet utility permitting is necessary, coordinate with the state for any air quality notifications, as well as notify the Forestry Branch when to remove merchantable timber from project sites. Once coordination is complete, this information is also incorporated into the proposed action's NEPA document. Each Record of Environmental Consideration and Environmental Assessment explains project-specific environmental compliance requirements, as well as documents alternatives analysis conducted during early planning of a proposed action. Because of the success of the Division's coordination process, its NEPA documents have become much more legally defensible, are easier for the public to understand, and have been praised by regulatory officials for their completeness. The Installation's high degree of pre-coordination is always a positive sign for success.

A cross-functional interdisciplinary team comprised of professionals from throughout the Installation and inclusive of the Wetlands Regulatory Division of the Army Corps of Engineers (a Cooperating Agency) began their Mission and Master Planning Environmental Impact Study (EIS) in OCT 09 which supports the Installation's FY11-14 MCA and range related projects. Three local public scoping meetings were held in APR 10. Since then, the scope of the EIS has been repeatedly presented at the Environmental Quality Control Committee (EQCC) meeting and at the AUG 09 Georgia Environmental Conference. The draft EIS is scheduled for public review in JAN 10 with a Record of Decision expected in JUN 10 in time to support the numerous FY11 range related projects such as the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range, Infantry Platoon Battle Course, and Modified Record Fire Range. The EIS will also enable pull ahead of other ranges slated for FY13 and 14 such as the Digital Multipurpose Training Range, Qualification Training Range, Fire and Movement Range, and the Convoy Live-Fire Range.

When the Installation became conformant with ISO 14001 for its Sustainability Management System (SMS) in 2005, this launched the Installation's extensive efforts to improve environmental conditions through sustainability. Teams consist of representatives from various directorates and Installation

support offices to assist in the integration and implementation of the SMS. Sustainability goals have been set and incorporated into the various Garrison Strategic Planning QMBs. Consequently, they are reviewed monthly, briefed quarterly at the QMBs and EQCC meeting, and annually at the IPB and the Strategic Planning Off-Site Conference.

As our fully implemented SMS continues to expand and improve, new objectives are identified and presented at the Installation's Strategic Planning Off-site Conference which is attended and receives full participation by the numerous FS/HAAF communities to solicit their support. This regionalizes our SMS efforts as we partner together to work through challenges to sustain our resources and environment. One of our objectives has been to increase community and regional awareness of FS/HAAF's established sustainability successes which has been met by expanding our environmental outreach and awareness campaign to incorporate professional journals and publications. Another of our objectives is to conserve our water resources for which we have teamed with technical experts such as the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, the US Geologic Society, and the Department of Energy to investigate alternate water sources to the stressed Upper Floridan Aquifer (UFA). In doing so, FS/HAAF has constructed one of the first successful Lower Floridan Aquifer wells in the region that will help to meet FS/HAAF's water demands while alleviating some of the stress from the Upper Floridan. Moreover, we have partnered with the City of Hinesville on a Reuse Wastewater Treatment Facility whereby reuse water will be used for non-potable industrial and irrigation purposes, further reducing FS's demand on the UFA. Establishing such partnerships through our SMS has been a win-win-win for FS/HAAF, the area communities, and our environment.

As the mission focus of the 3rd ID is training, FS/HAAF's SMS program put land use at the top of the list of significant aspects to track and manage. The two focus areas, Threatened and Endangered Species Management and Solid Waste Management both have an impact on our overall mission. Additionally, expansion of the SMS to incorporate water conservation ensures that we are focusing on maximizing the mission, minimizing negative impacts to the environment and our ability to train, and sustaining our resources, while enhancing the quality of life of our Soldiers and Families.

Technical Merit

Through full implementation of the SMS and its land management focus, our Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) management has had much success, accomplishing the reduction of most training restrictions. The red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) was in short supply on the Installation not long ago, and now the RCW Management Program has excelled to the extent that FS contributes 30+ birds per year to the effort of growing RCW populations in other areas. RCWs donated from FS have or will help grow populations at locations such as the Talladega National Forest, the Avon Park Air Force Range, and the Disney Wilderness Preserve.

With Command emphasis placed on Solid Waste Management through incorporation of the SMS and the QMB metrics, goals were initiated resulting in a robust and very successful Installation Qualified Recycling Program (QRP). Not only does the recycling program generate revenue to offset program management cost, it also saves the Installation money by diverting recyclable materials from the landfill. As a result, the landfill's useful life has been greatly extended, thereby delaying the requirement to pay for off-post disposal. Through training, recycling assessments and community education and outreach, the new target for one of the Army's last on-post sanitary landfill's closure is 2034. The Non-Putrescible landfill is expected to remain viable through 2049. During the rating period, FS/HAAF's Municipal Solid Waste Diversion rate increased from 27.23% in FY07 to exceeding the Department of the Army's Measure of Merit (MoM) in FY09 with a 40.71% diversion. Similarly, the Installation's Construction & Demolition diversion has exceeded the MoM since FY07 when its rate was at 98.78%, and has remained high with an FY09 diversion of 91.05%. FS/HAAF's overall diversion rate for FY09 was 83%. Despite a 50-80% reduction in the commodities market,

FS/HAAF's QRP remained self-sustaining, and with cost avoidance, reflected a value of over \$11M in FY09. Due to FS/HAAF's success and proactiveness, the QRP is routinely asked for advice and assistance, most recently from the City of Savannah in the development of their recycling program. An AUG 09 House Arms Services Committee delegation tour of the recycling facilities received praise as one of the best operations they had seen.

As an example of the integration of the program is the Directorate of Logistics' (DOL's) Lean Six Sigma project to establish practices and procedures to reduce the amount of hazardous waste generated by DOL Maintenance. The end result was a 73% reduction in hazardous waste and 51% reduction in volatile organic compounds (VOCs) generated by DOL Maintenance. The project evaluated hazardous waste management procedures and product substitutions to achieve these results. Water dispersed (WD) CARC paint replaced solvent dispersed CARC, thereby reducing VOCs, while WD CARC does not contain methyl ethyl ketone and other harmful constituents which allow for the management of dried paint and masking material as a non-hazardous waste. Used blast media is collected separately and returned to the supplier for recycling. The overall cost savings resulting from this project is \$60,000 annually. This may be a small amount but by savings of this nature, only means enhancement to the mission and its Soldiers.

The expansion of the SMS into water conservation addresses a State and regional concern. FS/HAAF has been a leader in reducing its footprint and impact on the stressed Upper Floridan Aquifer (UFA) – the main source of drinking water for the region. During FY09, the Installation drilled a Lower Floridan Aquifer (LFA) well, which will exceed the State's requirement to reduce HAAF's water usage from the UFA. The State was not only impressed with the Installation's pursuit of this initiative but, as a result of the partnered effort, the State is improving its drilling protocol to reflect some of the lessons learned during the construction of this well that will eliminate some unnecessary sampling procedures and reduce well installation costs. While modeling is still being verified, preliminary results have confirmed the LFA well will alleviate anywhere from 300,000-500,000 gallons of water per day from the UFA. Similarly, FS has also begun drilling a LFA well which is expected to be completed in DEC 09 and on-line in JAN 10. FS/HAAF has also begun investigating surface water and surficial aquifer sources to further reduce our demand.

Partnering with the City of Hinesville, the City constructed a reuse facility to reduce their wastewater demand on the existing wastewater treatment plant. For the system to be fully successful, a reuse customer base was required. Providing the City with a source for their water that will supply irrigation to FS's golf course and an industrial reuse at its Central Energy Plant is a win-win for both the City and FS. Construction began in FY09, and is expected to begin supplying FS with reuse water by DEC 09. This will again reduce FS/HAAF's demand on the UFA by another 860k gallons/day. These efforts also put us well on our way to meeting the requirements specified in the recently signed Executive Order 13423 (2% annual or overall 26% reduction from the 2007 drinking water baseline by FY2015).

Overall environmental quality can be gauged by the reduction of notices of violations from six in 2007 to four in 2008 and one in 2009. This states within itself the many efforts that are put forth to improve environmental quality. Through the continued oversight of all environmental and conservation programs, the SMS at FS/HAAF will continue to grow and benefit the Installation by sustaining and preserving the environment to ensure top-level training for the Soldiers of today and of the future.

Orientation to the Mission

The full integration of the Environmental Division into Installation planning has greatly enhanced mission capabilities. The virtues of FS/HAAF's exceptional inter-coordination efforts, especially with the Trainer, are continually heralded as the model for others to strive. In addition to poising the

Installation for execution of the previously named FY11-14 ranges, the Division completed clearances in support of and paving the way for the 41st ARNG Mobilization, Battle Command Training Center, Sniper Field Fire Range, the Holbrook Pond Paint Ball Court, 90th HR Company Facilities, the Chatham County and Liberty County Schools, Child Development and Youth Activity Centers, MVACIS relocation, the NCO Academy Wastewater Treatment Plant and Tank Trail relocation, as well as the Environmental Assessment for the 5th Brigade Combat Team Complex and the tank trail relocation. The 5th Brigade Combat Team construction began in FY09 to expand FS's Cantonment Area. Although the Army's Campaign Plan changed, the efforts have enabled FS/HAAF to provide for the growth FS has sustained during the Brigade Combat Team reorganization process and restationing efforts.

The Installation postures as one of the Army's top three installations to compete for the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) funding and has taken the lead on Joint Land Use Study (JLUS). Currently, the Installation is partnering with stakeholders to pursue purchase of conservation easements on neighboring properties/adjacent lands to prevent incompatible development around the Installation's boundaries. An example is a recent partnership that occurred when Chatham County requested by letter to the Garrison Commander to be formally recognized as an ACUB Partner. In 2008 Chatham County and the City of Savannah joined forces with FS/HAAF, the Georgia Forestry Commission, and private partners in support of the Lower Ogeechee River Conservation Corridor (LORCC) Partnership Project. Chatham County recently closed on a 648 acre property, with Chatham County Resources Protection Commission funds (estimated value of \$1.5M). This was the first ACUB Partners transaction completed in the LORCC portion of the ACUB boundary. The LORCC encompasses a total of 13,500 acres along the Ogeechee River and will provide linkage to other existing protected lands, creating a major corridor of biodiversity and a high potential for nature-based tourism, connecting to the future National East Coast/Coastal Georgia Greenway System and Visitor's Center that are planned to be included in the LORCC project, making it among the highlights of the National Trail System. In addition to promoting conservation, the LORCC will provide a buffer for the Installation from incompatible development and uses at no cost to the Army/DoD. Efforts are underway to establish JLUS Implementation Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) with all its surrounding communities to ensure compatible growth around FS/HAAF. Agreements have been signed with four of the six counties that comprise FS/HAAF, and final agreements are expected to be in place with the other two in early FY10.

An element of the FS/HAAF's SMS focus on TES management includes FS/HAAF's premier Forestry Program. Commercial timber is regularly thinned on a long-term, sustainable basis to provide military training opportunities in maneuver areas and within live-fire ranges. FS/HAAF is recognized as one of the largest timber revenue producers in DoD. Thinning also creates and maintains habitat for federally TES and supports Installation compliance with federal law. This approach to ecosystem management has enabled FS/HAAF to reduce or eliminate training restrictions by demonstrating our ability to expand populations of sensitive species even in heavily used training areas; FS/HAAF is recognized among the best examples of longleaf pine forest in the United States. Longleaf pine forests are maintained and renewed by frequent fire, and FS is recognized as one of the largest controlled burn programs in the world.

In FY08, the Installation once again proved their prescribed burning program is one of the most successful within the Department of the Army by setting a new Growing Season Record, a new North American Record and for the first time exceeded the integrated Natural Resources Management Plan goal as a result of burning 80,433 acres. To date, not one hour of training has been lost due to wildfire. This accomplishment demonstrates the Installation's continuous commitment in creating a sustainable FS through simultaneously protecting the environment; restoring the longleaf pine ecosystem and the endangered RCW population, while also ensuring the well being of our Soldiers; providing safe training and creating an area that is easier for Soldiers to maneuver through.

Transferability

FS/HAAF's Commanding General has established guidance to promote public confidence and increase public access to information/education and awareness of Installation Environmental Programs. FS/HAAF has for years been the model for other installations. During the course of the rating period FS/HAAF has partnered with over 6 military installations, 6 counties, 4 cities, 10 different state and federal organizations, as well as 2 pollution prevention and conservation organizations.

FS/HAAF Environmental staff has been asked to assist other Installations such as Fort Benning with their TES and Stormwater programs; King's Bay Submarine Base, Townsend Bombing Range, Forts Rucker and Jackson with prescribed burning; Warner Robbins AFB in their development of a site prediction model through a cooperative effort in archaeological data sharing between the two programs; and have been called upon to serve as Common Levels of Support Champions and Communities of Practice Subject Matter Experts. Additionally, they have supported the Annual Southeast Regional Translocation Cooperative since 1997 providing over 200 juvenile RCWs to the US Fish and Wildlife Service translocation. Most recently, our partnering efforts with the Liberty County Keep America Beautiful (KAB) affiliate has resulted in their being named the 2009 Georgia KAB Affiliate of the Year.

The FS/HAAF's Stormwater Program has assisted the Georgia Soils and Water Conservation Commission with the required Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Certified Training as a guest instructor to certify individuals in Levels 1A, 1B, and Levels II. Additionally, in 2008 FS/HAAF assisted the Coastal Soil and Water Conservation District and Conservation Commission with an instructor for the required Level 1A State E&S Certified training for the 92nd Engineering Battalion, the Georgia National Guard, and for Department of the Army Civilians.

During an FY09 enforcement meeting between the US Environmental Protection Agency (Region 4) and AAFES, FS/HAAF was identified as a model program for Underground Storage Tank Management. Consequently, subsequent to that meeting, AAFES has been developing a compliance program for their numerous fueling facilities modeling FS/HAAF's program.

FS/HAAF has also provided assistance to numerous training programs from the various colleges in this region sharing and demonstrating FS/HAAF's environmental quality and stewardship efforts.

Stakeholder Interaction

As noted, the SMS has been fully integrated into FS/HAAF's award winning Army Community of Excellence Strategic Planning process. FS/HAAF was most recently commended during the AUG 09 Installation Management Command Organizational Inspection Program for that integration as well as the Environmental Division's exceptional effort in developing strong partnerships with the local communities, municipalities, civil and environmental organizations. It was noted that these efforts have a demonstrated effect on the communities' sense of Environmental Stewardship. The successfulness of the FS/HAAF Environmental Programs hinges on the involvement of our many stakeholders in and around FS/HAAF – without which our efforts would be futile.

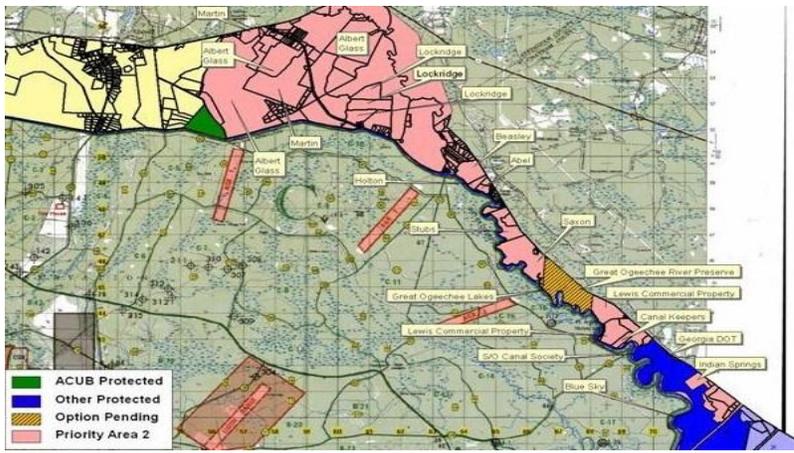
Thru extensive training of Soldiers and Civilians on the Installation, it has increased awareness and ensures the highest standards of environmental quality. Hundreds of Environmental Compliance Officer's courses and Recycling Compliance Officer's training courses have been taught over the past two years with approximately \$20,000 awarded to military units for excellence in establishing and maintaining their unit recycling program. Each quarterly EQCC briefing recognizes two military units' recycling programs with a \$1000 incentive award. Additionally, a plaque is presented by the Garrison

Commander to two military units and two civilian recycling programs in recognition of recycling program's successes.

FS/HAAF's robust and comprehensive public stewardship/outreach program reaches out, not only to its Army community but to its neighboring off-post local and surrounding communities. Activities, events, tours, presentations and classes are continually hosted on-post and off-post in support of the Installation and the program areas. The great success of the Qualified Recycling Program, for instance, can be attributed to not only compliance assessments, inspections, and classes but also to the numerous outreach/awareness efforts that includes regular submittal and publication of articles from the different media programs within the division to local newspapers, Army publications, and five professional journals (two more pending publication). Over the past two years a concerted effort of all the media areas have produced over 100 articles and have sponsored/participated in approximately 150 events, reaching over 15,000 people. The Program has expanded its efforts to include Marne TV newscasts and commercials, Facebook, Twitter, and is improving the individual program pages within its internet and intranet websites to include more detailed and interactive content such as the SMS training video.

In addition to presenting at military forums like the Department of the Army Sustainable Range Conference, FS/HAAF has briefed our sustainability efforts at such open forums as the Georgia Environmental Conference, and the Georgia Water Professionals Conference. We have been asked to participate in community meetings to assist local communities in developing Wildfire Management Plans, Comprehensive Water and Wastewater Plans, and a Coastal Georgia Supplement to the State's Stormwater Management Plan. In SEP 09, the FS/HAAF Stormwater Program manager was invited to serve on the 25 member Technical Board for implementation of the Coastal Stormwater Supplement for the Southeastern portion of the state.

Thru such partnership and participation afforded to the local communities, surveys have shown that "the public entrusts the Installation to care for our public lands in a sustainable and sensitive manner that will not harm the public health or the environment". Surveys used thru the development of a Restoration Advisory Board clearly demonstrated this. Strong partnerships and committing to high environmental quality and good stewardship have helped to cement FS/HAAF's reputation as an environmental leader and good neighbor and gives the program strength and staying power.



Lower Ogeechee River Conservation Corridor (LORCC) represents an important element of the ACUB program. The LORCC will provide linkage to other existing protected lands. Also it will connect to the future National East Coast/Coastal Georgia Greenway System & Visitor's Center for the National Trail System.



LORCC encompasses 13,500 acres along the Ogeechee adjacent to the Installation. LORCC offers biodiversity and a buffer for the Installation. FS's ecosystem provides habitat crucial to the continued survival of several rare plant and animal species.



The GC presenting the quarterly recycling incentive award to a unit. Two checks each of \$1000 are presented to two units quarterly. Hooah!



"Walking the LID Walk at Fort Stewart". The LID project shown here is the DPW Environmental Office parking lot. The project consisted of replacing two former parking lots with permeable interlocking concrete pavement.



Spreading the word about recycling! Mr. Thomas Fry (Chief, DPW Environmental Division), discusses Fort Stewart's Recycling Program with the Garrison Commander at the Fort Stewart Community Showcase. The Recycling Program promotes awareness by participating in numerous community events both on and



In 2009, FS/HAAF drilled a Lower Floridan well at HAAF. The well should meet and/or exceed Georgia's requirement to reduce water usage from the Upper Floridan Aquifer.